



Office of Early Learning

STATE PRE-K ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Created to be a model for Community Pre-K Advisory Councils
- Comprised of Representatives from:
 - Institutes of Higher Education
 - Head Start Agencies
 - Even Start Agencies
 - Community Based Child Care Providers- for profit and not for profit
 - TN Department of Health
 - TN Department of Education/Special Education
 - TN Department of Human Services
 - TN Department of Mental Health
 - TN Family Child Care Association
 - Pre-k teacher
 - Parents
 - TN Commission on Children and Youth
 - Local Education Agency's Director of Schools
- Meet on quarterly basis to discuss the development and implementation of Voluntary Pre-K program
- Advise the council on pertinent issues from their area of expertise to enhance the pre-k program's success across the state.

COMMUNITY PRE-K ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tennessee Code Annotated 49-6-106 mandates the establishment of a Community Pre-K Advisory Council as a part of the application process for programs under the Voluntary Pre-K for Tennessee Act of 2005.

The pre-kindergarten grant application process requires the active participation of the Pre-K Advisory Council. Through collaboration and cooperation with other agencies, the Local Education Agency shall assume a leadership role in establishing and convening the local Pre-K Advisory Council.

Purpose of the Pre-K Advisory Council: Develop a pre-kindergarten implementation plan to meet the needs of the four-year-old population residing within the geographic area served by the Local Education Agency (LEA), with the first priority being those four-year-olds who are at-risk. This plan should include short-term plans for the immediate year and long term plans working toward full implementation.

Pre-K Advisory Council composition shall be: (** indicates mandated by the legislation*)

- Director of Schools or his/her designee* (shall serve as Chair)
- Local School Board members*
- Parents*
- Teachers*
- Non-profit early childhood education or child care providers*

- For-profit early childhood education or child care providers*
- Head Start representative* (Program Director or Director's designee recommended)
- Business Community representatives*
- Local Government funding bodies* (County Commission members, City Council members, etc.) where applicable

Other agencies for consideration:

- Even Start or other family literacy organization
- Representative of an institution of Higher Education with an Early Childhood Education Department
- Community leaders who have demonstrated an interest in quality pre-kindergarten education
- Family child care providers
- Special Education representatives

Pre-K Advisory Council shall address:

1. Development of timeline for pre-kindergarten expansion.
 - Include a process to identify four-year-old children most at-risk of failure to develop school readiness skills by five years of age.
 - Include a pre-kindergarten expansion phase-in plan with access to the most at-risk, un-served four-year-old children in the first phases of program expansion.
2. Access to adequate facilities and equipment (including playgrounds) and staff
3. Identification of community resources
 - Local funding match (equivalent to local share of BEP)
 - Materials and supplies
 - Auxiliary services to promote family engagement
 - Existing programs serving four-year-olds.
 - Availability for wrap-around and summer child care services for children in need of full-day/ full-year care.

To maximize community participation and community "ownership" of the pre-kindergarten program, the Director of Schools and local Board of Education should consider the unique needs and characteristics of the community when selecting the members of the Pre-K Advisory Council. Serving in an advisory capacity, the council will play a major role in the planning, design, and on-going guidance of the pre-kindergarten program. All council members should understand the importance of their participation on the council and be committed to giving the time and the effort necessary to establish and to maintain a successful pre-kindergarten program.

The Director of Schools or designee should assume the leadership role in convening council meetings, organizing the tasks necessary to reach a decision regarding program design, grant application, and program implementation.

Please note: Not all agencies who participate in the Pre-K Advisory Council will receive funds to implement

pre-kindergarten classes as provided in this program. However, all participants will be able to offer their services, expertise, and resources to support this effort. The goal is to place pre-kindergarten classes in facilities that best meet the needs of the children.

Collaboration within the Pre-K Advisory Council can result in the development of successful partnerships, which are essential to long-term and short-term expansion of pre-kindergarten programs: facilities, resources, recruitment, funding, and community support.